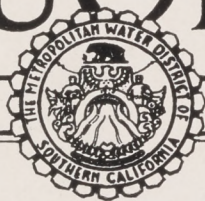


• COLORADO RIVER •
AQUEDUCT NEWS

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT



OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Vol. VII.

APRIL 25, 1940

No. 4



An early morning view of Lake Havasu as seen from the California bank above the Intake Pumping Plant.

COLORADO RIVER AQUEDUCT NEWS

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

306 WEST THIRD ST.
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

*Published monthly in the interest of
Field and Office Workers on the Colorado
River Aqueduct, and for the information
of all other citizens of the Metropolitan
Water District.*

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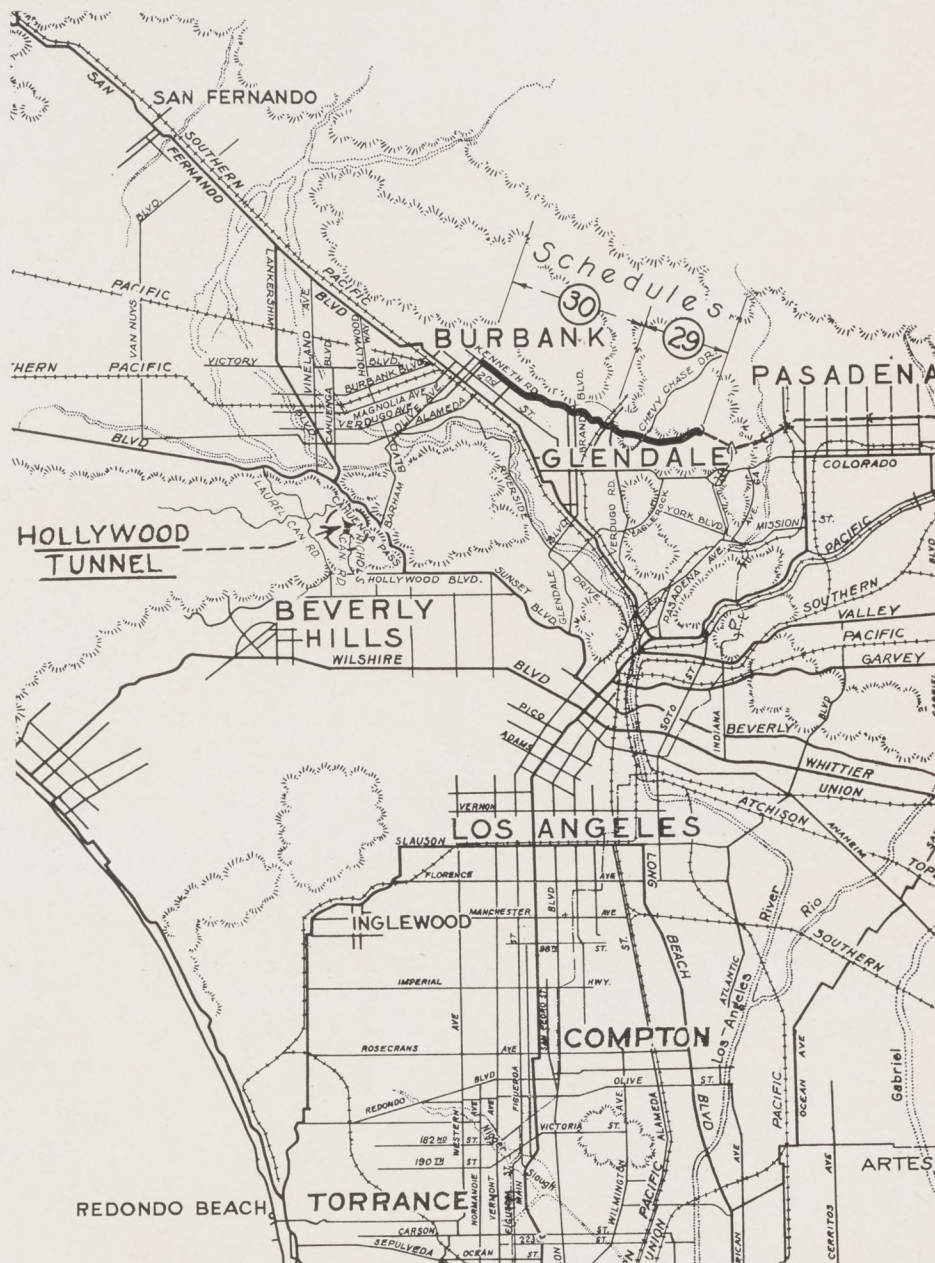
Bids To Be Opened May 14 On Pipe Line and Tunnel

Extension of the Colorado River Aqueduct distribution system to four Metropolitan Water District cities was set under way on April 22 and 24 when bids were advertised for on the Glendale-Burbank feeder and the Hollywood tunnel. Beginning of work on these two features will mark the first aqueduct construction work west of San Rafael tunnel No. 2 on the upper feeder of the distribution system.

Bids are to be opened on May 14, 1940, under Specifications No. 328, for the construction of approximately 6.8 miles of pipe line in the cities of Glendale and Burbank. The line is to extend from the west end of San Rafael tunnel No. 2, at Glenoaks Blvd. near Dawes Drive in the city of Glendale, to a point inside the easterly city limits of Burbank near the junction of Kenneth Road and Verdugo Ave.

The work is divided into two schedules, No. 29 being 2.5 miles long and Schedule No. 30 being 4.3 miles in length. Three alternative types of pipe line construction are called for on Schedule 29. These types are 58-in. diameter lock-joint steel cylinder reinforced concrete pipe; 59-in. welded steel pipe with gunite exterior coating and spun mortar lining; and 60-in. welded steel pipe with gunite exterior coating and coal-tar enamel lining. Only the latter two alternative types of construction are called for on Schedule 30.

Bids will also be opened on May 14, 1940, for the construction of the Hollywood tunnel which will make a total of 43 tunnels on the aqueduct system, of which 42 have already been completed. The Hollywood tunnel will be 0.71 mile long, will be lined with concrete, and will have a finished inside diameter of 6 feet.



General location of Burbank-Glendale lateral and Hollywood tunnel, bids for the construction of which will be opened on May 14, is shown on the above map. Extension of the line south from Burbank will serve Beverly Hills and Santa Monica.

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SUPERINTENDENTS (Main Aqueduct Tunnels)

San Jacinto Tunnel, District
Force Acct., B. C. Leadbetter, Gen. Supt.

Softening and Filtration Plant
Griffith Company, Weymouth
Crowell Co., Project Manager,
Olen Evans, Field Supt.

Waste Water Disposal Line
United Concrete Pipe
Corporation.

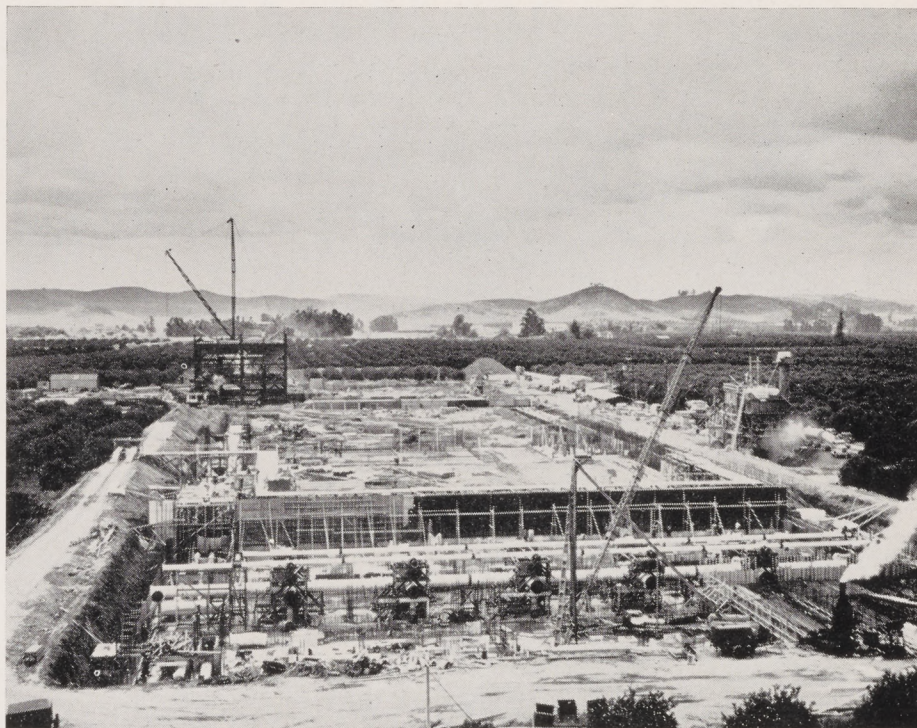
Work Booming At Softening and Filtration Plant

Progress reports from the office of Distribution Engineer R. B. Diemer indicate that work is moving along rapidly on the building of the water softening and filtration plant near La Verne. Some idea of the magnitude of the project may be obtained from the two pictures on this page.

Laying of pipe to connect the plant with the upper feeder of the distribution system was started on April 19 when crews of the United Concrete Pipe Corp. began placing 11-ft. 8-in. diameter precast concrete pipe in the influent and effluent lines. The construction of the railroad spur leading into the plant is practically completed and the first load of freight was delivered to the plant over this spur on April 9.

As of April 20, the construction progress reports show that a total of 91,760 cubic yards of earth has been excavated in connection with the building of the plant. This represents approximately 66 per cent of the required earthwork excavation.

Other items in the report indicate that 10,980 cubic yards of concrete has been placed in various tanks, basins,



A general view of construction work now under way at the softening and filtration plant. Structural steel for the head house is seen going up in the left background.

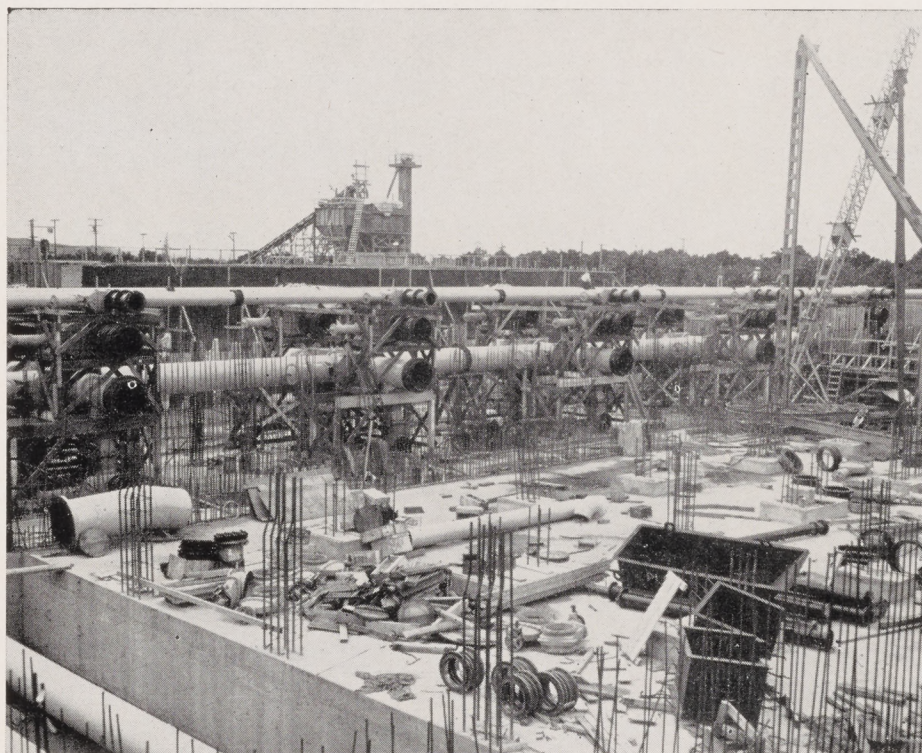
channels, and buildings of the plant and an additional 1,000 yards has been placed in caissons and foundations. Other major items include a total of 173,555 pounds of reinforcing steel and 570 tons

of structural steel that had been erected as of April 20, the latter item representing 92 per cent of the required structural steel for the plant.

The general contractor on the plant is the Griffith Company of Los Angeles. At the present time this firm and its various subcontractors are employing in excess of 300 men on the construction of the plant. Construction work is under the supervision of Distribution Engineer Diemer and is being directed on the job by Resident Engineer B. H. Martin.

SAN JACINTO TUNNEL HOLED THROUGH AGAIN VIA RADIO

Although the sound of the last blast of dynamite has long been stilled beneath the towering slopes of Mt. San Jacinto, the drama of the final holing through of the 13-mile aqueduct tunnel which pierces the mountain was recreated for a Pacific Coast radio audience on Sunday evening, April 21. The program "I Was There", released from Hollywood over the Western Division of the Columbia Broadcasting System, featured a description of the holing through including an interview with General Supt. B. C. "Mike" Leadbetter, the man "who was there." Knox Manning, master of ceremonies on the program, "was also there" as the announcer who described the original event on November 19, 1938.



A close-up of the pipe gallery leading to the sand filter at the water softening and filtration plant.

MONTHLY REPORT REVIEWS ACTIVITIES ALONG THE AQUEDUCT LINE

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The following is a brief summary of some of the activities of the District as set forth in the monthly report of General Manager F. E. Weymouth, filed with the Board of Directors in April, covering work done in March.)

Miscellaneous Activities Division

During the month of March 106 labor employment applicants were cleared for work on the aqueduct. Of this number, 2 were made available for force account work, and 104 were made available for aqueduct contractors. A total of 689 persons was interviewed during the month.

Main Aqueduct

Salvage Division—Stock appraised and transferred to the Banning salvage yard during March amounted to \$74,245, making a total to date of \$2,296,696. The total of salvage disbursements to date amounts to \$1,253,863.

Parker Dam—Average flow of water through the gates at Parker Dam during March was 8,907 cubic feet per second. Construction work on the power plant was active throughout the month.

Civil Engineering Division

Design—Specification drawings of pipe sections and structures for the Glendale-Burbank feeder neared completion, and studies were in progress on tunnel and pipe line features of the Burbank-Santa Monica feeder. Specification drawings of pipe sections and structures for the feeder to the Orange County cities were about 65 per cent complete, and an investigation of suitable pressure breaks is being made. Work was continued on drawings for various types of equipment for the water softening and filtration plant.

Materials and Inspection—Deliveries to the water softening plant comprised 8,100 barrels of cement, and final shipments of valves, pumps, and pressure filters. At the Banning laboratory, acceptance tests were made on 19,000 barrels of cement.

Distribution Division

Field and Office Engineering—Relocation of a portion of the Orange County feeder south of the Brea hills was practically completed, and surveys of substructures and improvements were continued. Surveys of the San Rafael-Santa Monica feeder were in progress consisting of alignment, property ties, improvements both surface and subsurface, profile levels, and topography in the vicinity of Nichols Canyon. In the office, preparation of right-of-way plats

and plan-profile drawings for the Orange County feeder was continued to about 75 per cent completion, and work was done on the specifications. Right-of-way maps and plan-profile drawings for the San Rafael-Santa Monica feeder were in progress.

Force Account Work—At the Caljaco Reservoir site trees supplied by the State Forester and by the U. S. Forest Service were planted where they can be easily cared for.

Water Softening and Filtration Plant—Excavation for the entire plant was about 62 per cent completed. Concrete has been placed in foundations and channels for wash water tank, head house, administration building, filter, and settling basins, zeolite section, property retaining wall, and for salt storage. The wash water tank was completely assembled and welded and is in use by the general contractor. Excavation for the influent and effluent lines has been started by the United Concrete Pipe Company. The railroad spur has been completed except a short section not yet built at the salt storage basin.

Electrical Engineering Division

Pumping Plants—Intake and Gene plants were operated throughout the month on a construction schedule. Miscellaneous construction work was nearly completed at all plants.

Miscellaneous—Negotiations were continued with the city of Pasadena and the Southern California Edison Company for the transmission and use of Azusa power plant energy at the water softening plant. Negotiations were started with the Yuma Irrigation District for the sale of excess District power to that corporation. Negotiations were completed during the month for the lease of additional transformers to the Salt River Valley Water Users' Association.

Purchasing Division

A total of 424 purchase orders were issued, covering purchases amounting to approximately \$34,000. Carload forwardings totaled 7.

Accounting and Costkeeping

The total cost of the work accomplished to March 31, 1940, was \$182,868,408.17.

Iron and Gold Deposits Reported At Eagle Mountain

According to various official and unofficial prospectors, the Eagle Mountain country in the vicinity of the main line of the aqueduct is about to blossom forth not only as one of the world's great iron ore producing areas, but also as an area of fabulous gold bearing wealth.

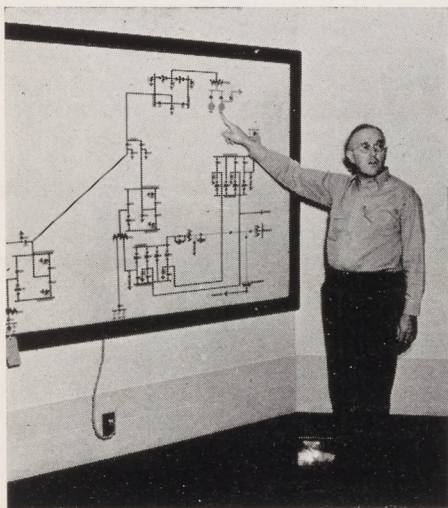
In the Los Angeles Times Magazine of March 31, 1940, Edmund C. Harder of the U. S. Geological Survey states that there is enough high-grade iron ore in sight at Eagle Mountain "to supply a blast furnace of 500 tons daily capacity for more than 500 years." Local enthusiasts predict that with the use of electric power from Boulder and Parker dams, this iron ore deposit will create a steel industry in Los Angeles comparable to that in Pittsburgh. It has even been suggested that the plants be constructed right in the desert at the site of the ore deposit. (Various and sundry old-time aqueducters who've spent a few summers near Eagle Mountain will probably agree that there's enough heat out there to smelt the ore without bringing in any power.)

Adding color and romance to the discovery of the more prosaic iron ore was the announcement a few days later by Jackson C. Hill, a Los Angeles prospector, that he had found the long-lost "Peg Leg" gold mine in the same Eagle Mountain. Hill claims that \$200,000 worth of ore is in sight, and that his company will start shipping it out within sixty days.

Contract Awarded For Waste Water Line Construction

At its meeting on April 12, the Board of Directors of the District awarded a contract to the United Concrete Pipe Corp. for the construction of a waste water disposal pipe line from the water softening and filtration plant. The contractor's bid was \$359,101.00. Extending south and west from the softening plant to a point near the Whittier Narrows, where it will connect with the sewer system of the Los Angeles County Sanitation District, the waste water line will be approximately 22 miles in length. Construction will be of precast concrete pipe sections with "type B" joints, and is to be done under Specifications No. 324.

NEWS FROM FIELD AND OFFICE



A. E. Geisler, Dispatcher at Gene Pumping Plant, points out the electric lighted display board on which is represented the power system for the pumping plants.

Friends of L. H. "Ike" Henderson, one of the leading lights of the Banning headquarters during the construction of the main aqueduct, will be interested to learn of the arrival in the Henderson family of a daughter, born on March 3. The young lady, who weighed 9.3 pounds at birth, has been named Brenda Diane Henderson.

* * *

Another ex-aqueducker who is heading for South America is R. C. Booth, who left Los Angeles on April 24 enroute to Sao Paulo, Brazil, where he will be engaged in an engineering investigation for proposed water-power projects. Mr. Booth was well known to hundreds of aqueducters, having been Division Engineer of Division 1, and later Division Engineer and General Superintendent of the Coachella tunnels.

* * *

W. M. "Bill" Fox, who for many years was official photographer for the District, and who took most of the pictures appearing in the Aqueduct News, has opened his own commercial photographic studio in Banning. "Bill" plans to specialize on desert photos, a subject at which he has become a master due to his many years of experience in the wide open spaces.

* * *

R. W. Spencer, acting office engineer for the District, resigned on April 12 to accept a position with the Southern California Edison Company in that corporation's Los Angeles headquarters.

Aqueduct Temperatures

March 16 to April 15, 1940

	Max.	Min.
Div. 1	98°	47°
Div. 2	96°	46°
Div. 3	96°	45°
Banning	89°	39°
Cajaleo	94°	41°

Spencer was first employed by the District in May, 1934, and worked in the Banning headquarters, later being transferred to the Los Angeles headquarters. He has been replaced by N. H. Beaton, one of the old-timers on the District's engineering staff. Mr. Beaton was first employed by the Electrical-Mechanical Division in June, 1930, and was with that division until April, 1939, when he was transferred to the Design Division.

* * *

Moving into the heart of a famous mining and tunneling region, John Austin and a group of hardrock men formerly employed on Colorado River Aqueduct tunnels have apparently made the well known Cripple Creek mining district sit up and take notice. Front page banner headlines on the issues of April 5 and April 8, 1940, of The



Although he isn't wearing the costume generally accepted for yachting, the man above is First Officer Owen Crawley of the good ship Cajaleo. Owen is a member of the M.W.D.'s force on the maintenance and operation of Cajaleo Reservoir and one of his jobs (when Skipper McCleary isn't around) is to navigate the District's new launch on the big reservoir.



Leroy "Pinky" Costello, "Hello" man for Hayfield and points east. "Pinky" is an old-timer on the District's telephone system, and the board he's shown operating has now replaced the old Banning switchboard.

Times-Record, published in Cripple Creek, Colorado, are devoted to the outstanding records being made by John Austin's crews on the Cripple Creek drainage tunnel. During the month of March these crews drove 1,735 feet of hardrock tunnel, and on April 6, they set a new record of 74 feet in one day. John Austin was well known on the aqueduct, having been superintendent on a number of Coachella headings, and later superintendent of the Lawrence Adit of the San Jacinto tunnel. A number of Austin's shifters and walkers, as well as miners and other skilled workmen on the Cripple Creek job are men who formerly worked under him on the aqueduct job.

* * *

Joe Brown, who has spent many years on the main aqueduct and distribution system has recently been transferred to the position of General Foreman for the District on the water softening and filtration plant.

* * *

Glen Lucas, another old-timer on various engineering staffs on both the main aqueduct and the distribution system is now Chief Inspector of Concreting Operations at the water softening plant.

Parker Dam Area Provides New Vacationland

Combining the age-old lure of the desert with the sparkling beauty of deep blue lakes set in the midst of jagged and spectacular mountains, a new and unusual vacationland has been created in the vicinity of Parker Dam by the placing in operation of the main line of the Colorado River Aqueduct.

Although as yet unpublicized from the recreational standpoint, the area is already attracting many hundreds of visitors every month, and because of its ease of access both to the eastern tourist and to residents of the Metropolitan Water District area it promises to become one of Southern California's most popular playground.

Geographically, this area, which lies on the California bank of the river in the vicinity of Parker Dam, is located in the center of the five tourist gateways to Southern California. These gateways are via Boulder Dam, Needles, Parker, Blythe, and Yuma.

Information compiled by the All Year Club of Southern California shows that during 1939 a total of 245,490 automobiles carrying 726,540 eastern visitors entered Southern California through



Copper Basin Reservoir as seen from the entrance to Bandit Pass. This beautiful body of water is one of the many scenic attractions in the Parker Dam area.

these five points. Statistical data compiled over a period of years also indicates that these gateways annually admit from 55 per cent to 60 per cent of all of California's tourists.

From the Metropolitan Water Dis-

trict area, Parker Dam is but an easy eight-hour automobile drive over excellent paved highways via Indio and Desert Center. It is 281 miles from the Los Angeles City Hall.

Counts made by the Bureau of Reclamation at Parker Dam show that an average of 1000 cars per month have been visiting Parker Dam since it was placed in operation. Lately this figure has been rapidly increasing because of the word that has been passed around of the excellent fishing now possible in Lake Havasu.

At the present time there is no closed season for fishing on Lake Havasu, and it is quite common for parties to quickly take limits from the lake of a number of different kinds of fresh water fish. Fish now being taken include Big Mouth Bass, Blue Gill, Channel and Mud Cat. The bass are said to average from four to five pounds in weight.

Climatic conditions in the Parker Dam area are similar to those in other desert resorts and as a result riding, hiking, and other desert recreational activities are as practicable at Parker Dam as in Palm Springs. The added attraction of beautiful bodies of water such as Lake Havasu, and Gene and Copper Basin reservoirs, with their attendant scenic attractions and boating and fishing possibilities, give this area a recreational value far in excess of that of other desert resorts.



A glimpse of Lake Havasu is seen through a notch in the rocky canyon back of Gene Dam.